

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 799

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2395

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF STATE 72740

1. PRINCE FAHD, CROWN PRINCE AND FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL FIRST THAT IT WOULD BE "PREMATURE" FOR SECRETARY ROBINSON TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA THE MIDDLE OF APRIL. HE SAID THE SAUDIS WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THE VISIT BUT HE AND THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE OVERWHELMED WITH LONG-SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND WITH PROTOCOL VISITS THEY COULD NOT AVOID. FAHD SUGGESTED THAT UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON POSTPONE HIS VISIT FOR "ABOUT A MONTH OR SO."

2. THE EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON STOP HERE, PARTICULARLY IF HE IS GOING TO TEHRAN IN ANY CASE. HE COULD STOP EITHER GOING OR COMING. IN VIEW OF PRINCE FAHD'S REQUEST WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM TO SEE ANY SAUDI OFFICIALS.

3. AHMED ZAKI YAMANI WILL BE IN PARIS FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING AROUND THE SAME TIME AS THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED TO YAMANI THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY ROBINSON THEN. YAMANI SAID HE WAS AFRAID

IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AS HE WOULD ONLY BE THERE FOR THE MEETINGS AND WOULD BE RETURNING TO RIYADH IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. YAMANI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WOULD BE STAYING.

4. IF UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON WISHES TO SEE YAMANI, WE SUGGEST HE CHECK WITH THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN PARIS AND THEN CALL YAMANI TO PRESENT HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF KING FAISAL. UNLESS YAMANI REALLY IS OCCUPIED EVERY WAKING MOMENT, HIS NATURAL POLITENESS WOULD PROBABLY LEAD HIM TO SUGGEST A BRIEF MEETING.

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